



The agriculture and fisheries sectors provide livelihoods for millions of people, particularly in rural areas, and underpin food security and nutrition. Water is a key resource for these productive sectors. Optimising the potential of agriculture, fisheries and water for economic development, while ensuring sustainable use of resources for long-term prosperity, is one of the biggest challenges facing our region.

#### Strategic direction

Australia’s Foreign Policy White Paper highlights the importance of improving the management of agriculture, fisheries and water in an era of accelerating global resource demand, geostrategic competition and climate change. Water and food are tightly interconnected resources. For example, food production is the largest user of water globally, responsible for 80–90 per cent of surface and groundwater use. Managing wastewater is critical to reducing ocean pollution and protecting fisheries.

Australia’s development cooperation investments in **agriculture**, **fisheries** and **water** prioritise three key areas of engagement:

- strengthening markets;
- innovating for productivity and sustainable resource use; and
- policy, governance and reform.

#### Results in 2018-2019

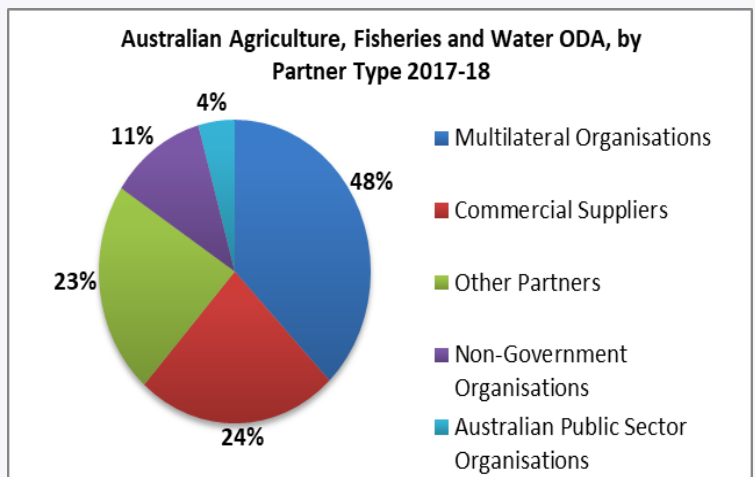
- Innovative rice farming technologies developed in Vietnam which increase yields and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the AgResults initiative.
- Water Stewardship Australia, with support from Australian Water Partnership, is working with the Australian Council of Textile and Fashion, member companies and the Better Cotton Initiative. It provides a holistic supply chain solution for water management in factories overseas so consumers can buy responsibly with greater knowledge of where the article came from and how it was made.
- Support for Pacific regional fisheries development and management to increase tuna revenues from US\$474 million to approximately US\$535 million (A\$796 million) and to provide 22,500 jobs in 2017 (latest available data).

## AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & WATER

Development cooperation fact sheet: October 2019

Australian ODA	2017-18 Actual (\$m)*	2018-19 Estimated Outcome (\$m)*	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Pacific	54.8	103.6	88.7
Southeast and East Asia	125.1	123.0	99.1
South and West Asia	53.2	41.7	43.7
Africa and the Middle East	22.9	38.3	33.9
Rest of the World*	105.8	86.6	73.0
<b>Total Australian Agriculture, Fisheries and Water ODA**</b>	<b>361.8</b>	<b>393.2</b>	<b>338.3</b>

*\*Due to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.  
\*\*Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.  
Note: All outcome and budget figures include scholarships.*



#### Current Priorities

- Support small-scale farmers, fishers and entrepreneurs, particularly women, to meet their livelihood and food security needs.
- Work with **partner governments** and international organisations to support **private-sector led agricultural development** in low-income countries, and to strengthen approaches to managing water scarcity in the context of climate change, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Draw on our considerable expertise in **agriculture, fisheries and water management** by investing in agricultural and fisheries research, through the

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

- Lead international efforts on priority issues (including increased water use efficiency; promoting innovative technologies and practices; and establishing international standards for collection and sharing of water data) using the expertise of the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and Geoscience Australia.
- Help conserve the genetic diversity of food crops in gene and seed banks, with a focus on the Pacific.
- Advocate for more open agricultural trading systems, through international and regional organisations.
- Strengthen regional efforts in the Pacific to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- Support Pacific island countries to determine their maritime boundaries under international law and secure their maritime entitlements into the future in the face of sea level rise.
- Negotiate a new treaty on biodiversity in the high seas.
- Build coastal resilience in Pacific island countries to withstand pressure from the impacts of **climate change**, population growth and overfishing.

**Indigenous peoples and /or ethnic minorities**  
Australia's \$33.7m Aus4Equality program aims to support women to better engage in agriculture and tourism markets, enhance women's voices in decision-making, promote partnerships with the private sector, and support more inclusive government policies and services.

**Innovation**  
Through its development cooperation investments in agriculture, fisheries and water, Australia is supporting innovation by catalysing private sector investment, brokering market opportunities and investing in the development and uptake of science and technology solutions.

**Gender equality** is a significant objective in 57% of Australian development cooperation investments in agriculture, fisheries and water sectors.



For more details  
[Strategy for Australia's aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water.](#)

